

- Train school personnel in conflict resolution, problem solving, drug prevention, crisis intervention, cultural sensitivity, classroom management, and counseling skills.
- Work with students, parents, law enforcement, local governments, and community-based groups to develop wider-scope crime prevention efforts.

COMMUNITY PARTNERS

- Law enforcement can report on the type of crimes in the surrounding community and suggest ways to make schools safer.
- Community-based groups, church organizations, and other service groups can provide counseling, extended learning programs, before and after-school activities, school watches, and other community crime prevention programs.
- State and local governments can develop model school safety plans and provide funding for schools to implement the programs.
- Local businesses can provide apprenticeship programs, participate in the adopt-a-school programs, or serve as mentors to area students.
- Colleges and universities can offer conflict management courses to teachers or assist school officials in developing violence prevention curricula.

* A McGruff House is a reliable source of help for children in emergency or frightening situations. For information call 801-486-8768.

For More Information

National Association of Elementary School Principals
1615 Duke Street
Alexandria, VA 22314-3483
703-684-3345

National School Boards Association
1680 Duke Street
Alexandria, VA 22314
703-838-6722

National School Safety Center
4165 Thousand Oaks Boulevard, Suite 290
Westlake Village, CA 91362
805-373-9977

Safe and Drug-Free Schools Program
600 Independence Avenue, SW
Portals 604
Washington, DC 20202-6123
202-260-6722

Kentucky Crime Prevention Coalition
P O Box 18442
Erlanger, Kentucky 41018

1-606-727-2678
Toll Free 1-888-798-5272



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SAFER SCHOOLS



WORKING TOGETHER
TO CREATE
SAFER SCHOOLS



When crime, drugs, and violence spill over from the streets into the schools, providing a safe learning environment becomes increasingly difficult. More students carry weapons for protection. Gunfights replace fistfights. Many students must travel through drug dealer or gang turf. Violence becomes an acceptable way to settle conflicts.

When this happens, children cannot learn and teachers cannot teach.

Creating a safe place where children can learn and grow depends on a partnership among students, parents, teachers, and other community institutions to prevent school violence:

- Find out how crime threatens schools in your community.
- Take actions to protect children.
- Promote nonviolent ways to manage conflict.

How do these ideas translate into action? Here are some practical suggestions for young people, parents, school staff, and others in the community.

STUDENTS

- Settle arguments with words, not fists or weapons.
- Report crimes or suspicious activities to the police, school authorities, or parents.



- Learn safe routes for traveling to and from school, and know good places to seek help.

- Don't use alcohol or other drugs, and stay away from places and people associated with them.
- Get involved in your school's anti-violence activities — have poster contests against violence, hold anti-drug rallies, volunteer to counsel peers. If there's no program, help start one.

PARENTS

- Sharpen your parenting skills. Emphasize and build on your children's strengths.
- Teach your children how to reduce their risks of becoming crime victims.
- Know where your kids are, what they are doing, and whom they are with at all times.
- Help your children learn nonviolent ways to handle frustration, anger, and conflict.
- Become involved in your child's school activities — PTA, field trips, and helping out in class or the lunch room.
- Work with other parents in your neighborhood to start a McGruff House® or other block parent program.

SCHOOL STAFF

- Evaluate your school's safety objectively. Set targets for improvement.
- Develop consistent disciplinary policies, good security procedures, and a response plan for emergencies.